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Les Çomâlis. Par Gabriel Ferrand. xiv et 284 pp. (No index.) Ernest Leroux, Paris, 1903.

This is the first of a series of volumes which will present "Materials for the Study of Mohammedan Countries." This series is under the editorship of Prof. A. Le Chatelier of the College of France, who is to be congratulated upon opening this collection of studies with a book that so well presents and classifies the existing information about Somaliland. Mr. Ferrand says that the barbarism and fanaticism of the Somalis are responsible for our ignorance of their country in nearly all its aspects. He describes what is known of the physical geography of Somaliland, sketches the history of the people, according to the leading authorities, outlines the explorations of the XIXth Century, and treats of the languages, which are a part of the Ethiopic group of the Hamitic. He then describes the tribes in detail, with separate chapters on their social organization, their music and songs, Christianity and Islam, and the political partition of the country. Perhaps the best summary of information that has appeared on the Mahdi, Mohammed Ben Abdallah (the Mad Mullah)—who he is, what he represents, and the campaigns against him—is found in the 38 pages of the last chapter.

Zwei Jahre unter den Kannibalen der Salomo-Inseln. Von Carl Ribbe. vii und 352 Ss., 3 Karten, 14 Tafeln, Abbildungen und 10 Beilagen. (Index) Herman Beyer, Dresden-Blasewitz, 1903.

Mr. Ribbe is a naturalist who improved the opportunity to spend two years (1894-96) among the islands of the Solomon Archipelago. He made large collections in natural history and studied the natives as far as he was able to do at the white stations along the coasts. He lived most of the time at the Shortland Islands, just south of Bougainville, and his trips along the coasts did not extend farther south than the Central islands of the New Georgia group; thus his attention was confined to the northern third of the archipelago.

He brings no further information about the interior than any of his predecessors, but his large book is one of the most valuable contributions yet made to the knowledge of this archipelago. It is imbued with scientific spirit, abounds with information, and is especially rich in descriptions of the natives. The appendix is devoted to anthropological measurements, and a large number of tracings of facial profiles, hands, and feet are given. Vocabularies collected in various islands are arranged for purposes of comparison.

None of his predecessors gives the islanders a worse reputation than the present writer. He says that no more treacherous peoples exist, and that the white man is not safe for a minute without a revolver at hand. And yet some of the natives buy their potatoes and rice from the whites, and are very glad to sell him their large crops of cocoanuts. They come down to the coast to transact business with the trader in the daytime, and incidentally try to ascertain the position of his bed, hoping to be able to shoot him at night through the wall. The barter trade is very profitable, which is all that keeps the whites along the coasts. Some of them bring their wives and children to the islands, and the women, Mr. Ribbe says, are as brave and wary as the men folk.

No white man ventures inland; the trader keeps to the sea edge, where he dries his copra and lives among his barter goods. The result is that almost nothing is known accurately of the interior of the islands, and the larger islands are absolutely untraversed. We know something of the topography, because sketches and surveys have been made from the decks of vessels. Such dominating features, however, as

the Kronprinz Range, which forms the backbone of Bougainville, have never been reached by an explorer, and the largest-scale maps are likely to give only such information as this printed across the blank spaces of the islands: "Flat from this point to the coast and well wooded;" "many villages lie from 5 to 10 kilometers inland;" "coast region wooded," etc.

The illustrations, chiefly from the author's photographs and drawings, show the natives in their physical characteristics; groups of them are seen in their vocations or dances, and their industrial processes, such as weaving and pottery-making, and their musical instruments, fishing appliances, and other arts are illustrated. The index facilitates reference to every page, and the work is a storehouse of information which is not likely to be supplanted for many years.

Paris and Environs. By Karl Baedeker. liv and 458 pp., 13 maps, 38 plans, besides Index of Streets and Plans of Paris, 42 pp. Index. Karl Baedeker, Leipzig, 1904. (Price, M. 8.)

The fifteenth edition of this handbook. Like its predecessors, it will go far to make the traveller independent of guides and help him to plan for the economic expenditure of time and money. The accounts of the routes from London to Paris include maps of Boulogne, Amiens, Calais, Dieppe, Rouen, and Le Havre. The American tourists, who now land directly at Cherbourg, without visiting England, will be likely to consider a map of Cherbourg a valuable addition to the volume.

Into the Yukon. By William Seymour Edwards. xii and 312 pp., 98 Illustrations and two maps. No Index. The Robert Clarke Co., Cincinnati, 1904.

This is a sketchy, brightly-written book of travels, with no waste of words and crowded with crisp bits of description, and just the kind of information to enlighten the reader on the things he most desires to know concerning a place or region. It covers the author's routes from Cleveland to Dawson, on the Yukon, and through our Pacific States, between Puget Sound and Los Angeles, and back to St. Louis. The small half-tone pictures are a feature of distinctive excellence. One picture gives a glimpse of the first agricultural fair held at Dawson, of which the author says:

The display of vegetables and flowers especially astonished me. The biggest beets I have ever seen, the meaty substance all clear, solid, firm, and juicy. Potatoes, Early Rose, and other varieties, some new kinds raised from seed in three years—large, a pound or more in size. And such cabbage, cauliflower, and lettuce as you never saw before. Many kinds full-headed, and able to compete with any produced anywhere. All these raised in the open air, on the rich, black bottom and bench lands of the Yukon.

There was also a display of fine ripe strawberries, and the "show of oats, rye, barley, wheat, and timothy and native grasses, as well as of red and white clover, proved that this Yukon region is capable of raising varied and nutritious crops necessary for man's food, and for the support of horses and cattle." The author says that not a few men, instead of hunting for gold, have gone into raising vegetables, hay and grain, and get fabulous prices for their products.

Agricultural and Pastoral Prospects of South Africa. By Owen Thomas. vii and 335 pp., Map and Index. Archibald Constable & Co., Ltd., London, 1904. (Price, 6s.)

The author treats of South Africa from Cape Colony to Northern Rhodesia, north of the Zambezi, in its agricultural and grazing aspects. He deals first with the